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Castro, the Executioner

It was formally announced in Havana yesterday that a former Cuban student, one Jorge Fundora Fernandez, was executed by a firing squad after conviction by a military court of being a secret agent for the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency with the mission of making "attempts on the lives of prominent citizens."

The death of Fernandez will arouse no great indignation in Cuba or in the United States, since he was virtually unknown and he had no one of influence to work in his behalf.

What is important is that his death raised to 630 the unofficial total of executions since Fidel Castro came to power Jan. 1, 1959, most of them carried out on court-martial orders.

Apologists may try hard to justify the actions of Castro and his regime, but it will take a lot of explaining to persuade Americans that his policy is one of progress, justice and respect for rights of the people. Executions by wholesale are not recommendations for respect—or recognition.

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